



# Wesley Journal

Volume 15, Issue 2  
February, 2012

## Wesley United Methodist Church

98 North Maple Street, Hadley, MA 01035 \* 413-549-1550  
www.wesleyfamily.org \* Pastor: Rev. Ronald Wilson

**Every Sunday:  
Worship  
10:35 AM**

**Sunday School  
during part of  
Worship on  
most Sundays**

### What's inside:

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### Church Office Hours (May change during Feb)

**Monday 10:00 - 2:00**

**Tuesday 9:30 - 11:30**

**Wednesday 11:00 - 1:00**

**Thursday 10:30 - 12:30**

**Friday 11:00 - 2:00**



*Great Wesley Church  
Spaghetti Dinner and Auction*

**February 11  
5:30-6:30 pm Dinner  
and Silent Auction  
6:30 pm Bid Auction**

Tickets: \$10 Adults, \$5 Children (up to 12)

Dinner proceeds support Haiti Recovery Project and Famine Relief in Africa  
Auction proceeds support general ministry and mission  
work of Wesley United Methodist Church

Reserve space by signing up in Fellowship Hall before/after worship;  
by phone (413-549-1550) or email (office@wesleyfamily.org).

#### Ways to help ahead of time:

- Volunteer to help cook, set up, or clean up for the Feb 11 dinner
- Donate goods, services or talents for the silent auction
- Offer a specialty meal for the bid auction (Ethnic foods or a great family recipe, cooked at your house or at the home of the auction winner, for 2 or 20 diners, what you offer is up to you)

### Ash Wednesday Service, February 22

To celebrate Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the season of Lent, there will be an evening service at Wesley Church on February 22 at 7:00 pm. Mark your calendar and plan to be here for a meaningful time of worship and personal reflection.



### Several New Small Groups Begin Meeting Soon!

See page 5 for details about...

- Methodism 101, beginning Thursday, February 2
- Parables of Jesus, beginning Sunday, February 5
- Reliving Vacations Group, beginning Friday, Feb. 17

## OUR CHURCH STAFF

### **Rev. Ron Wilson, Pastor**

Church: 413-549-1550

Home: 413-835-0088

Cell: 774-239-6965

[pastor@wesleyfamily.org](mailto:pastor@wesleyfamily.org)

### **Margaret Burland**

Office Administrator

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### **Cathy Bennett**

Small Groups Coordinator  
and Music Director

413-256-1502

[cab55@earthlink.net](mailto:cab55@earthlink.net)

### **Tim Bennett**

Omega Handbell Director

413-397-3150

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### **Andrew Bame**

AV Tech Director

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### **Nancy Nash**

Certified Lay Speaker

413-256-2622

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Certified Lay Speaker

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### **Diana Fordham**

Treasurer

413-256-6645

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### **Bill McDonough**

Financial Secretary

413-665-4949

[bill.mcdonough@esko.com](mailto:bill.mcdonough@esko.com)

### **Staff-Parish Committee:**

Joyce Hines (chair)

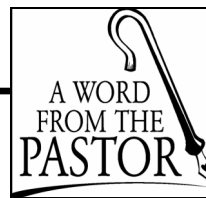
Dana Tarr, Ginny Kilmer,

Martha Faison, Jenn Catt,

Martin Devanandan, Toshi

Kinuta, Richmond Am-

piyah-Bonney.



Some years ago, Robert Raines, in *Soundings*, gave a personal testimony on some of the dimensions of Scriptural holiness. He wrote:

“My three year old son.....when I take him in my arms, he holds my face between his hands as we look at each other, kisses are enough to blow away his tears. How amazing that he trusts me who am not trustworthy; how awesome that he thinks I am stronger than the monster, that mysterious power which would hurt or scare him, but even the monster’s power fades when he is with me, for I am his father.

Can I be like my son and trust you, O God and not be afraid? God, your heart must break when you see the faces of the forgotten hidden in the alleys, huddled in motels and nursing homes, tucked in tenements, stranded in a station or on the street. You know what it’s like to be rejected, neglected, homeless, hopeless, deserted; that comforts me. Let me comfort all the lonely people I know.”

Life is sometimes hard, uncertain, puzzling and weary, so we struggle to be responsible to our commitments and our journey despite great setbacks and disappointments. We know that we must face illness, failure, loss of love, the death of dreams and the darkening of hope.

Life for many of us is filled with sounds and sights, tugging and pulling us for commitments of energy. Human needs crying for resolution or alleviation can easily overwhelm us. God has given us that central and unifying force in the presence and power of Jesus to keep us together.

If you listen to a Beethoven symphony regularly, you notice in the beginning a distinct theme. Variations progressively make the theme more difficult to distinguish. Soon, the listener is excited that, through all the apparent chaos, the theme holds the music together and gives the symphony direction and force.

In our spiritual journeys, God acquaints us with the unifying and direction-giving theme in Jesus Christ. Even when chaos increases and that mysterious power which would hurt or scare hovers above, there is a power which is stronger. If we are to trust God and not be afraid; if we are to comfort “all the lonely people,” then, together we need to strength our spiritual disciplines and share our spiritual journeys. Scriptural holiness, in its best practice, has always brought together the personal and social dimensions of discipleship.

February 22nd is Ash Wednesday. The season of Lent can be our attempt for growth, reflection, newness and rediscovery. It can be a time when we consciously make an effort to develop that part of us we call the spiritual self. Lent can be a time for mental and spiritual preparation for Holy Week and the Easter event. It can be a time when we look at ourselves in relation to our world, our friends and our families and members of our church. Lent has the potential of moving us beyond our ordinary experiences to high “holy” encounters with the Divine.

May God bless our journey to the cross and may we experience newness of life as we prepare for Easter. Grace and Peace to you.

-- Pastor Ron

# Financial Page

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## Treasurer's Corner:

A new addition to our newsletter to share information about our finances and stewardship as part of the ministry of the church.

*Did you Know.....*

-- \$145 was collected during worship in November for the Strength For Service Veterans Program!

-- We paid \$24,107.65 for propane for the church and parsonage last year!

We often equate stewardship with an annual campaign and our pledges, but Christian stewardship involves all of our life. Though stewardship does include money and talents, it is far more. We are called to be stewards of relationships and stewards of God's Word.

-- Diana Fordham, WUMC Treasurer



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## Follow-Up Meeting of the Fall Good Sense Budget Class

As planned at the end of the Fall Good Sense Budget Class, there will be a follow-up meeting of the participants, which has now been scheduled for Tuesday, February 21 at 6:00 pm at the church.

## Free Furniture Available from Wesley Church Youth Room



The upholstered furniture in the youth room, with the exception of the blue sofa, does not meet commercial fire code requirements and needs to be removed as soon as possible. This furniture is fine for home use. Anyone who would like to have any of these pieces--FREE--should contact either the church office at 549-1550 or Diane Mercomes at 687-7531.

## Please Return Unused Key Cards!

The church office has run out of key cards to the building! More have been ordered, but this shortage has been a reminder that many cards have been distributed to people in the congregation who may no longer be using them. If you have a key card which you have not used for several months, please consider returning it to the church office.

# Involvement and Service Opportunities

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## Confirmation Class to meet after Worship on Sunday, February 12

Anyone considering taking the Confirmation class this spring is invited to a meeting with Rev. Wilson after worship on Sunday, February 12 -- this meeting is for parents as well, if possible.

## New Rainbow Players Evening Planned for April -- Helpers Needed!

Many people who helped with the Wesley Church/Rainbow Players Prom for adults with disabilities, held at the church in the fall of 2010, have fond memories of a happy and enlightening evening. Now Denise Whitney has begun planning a new evening with Rainbow Players, tentatively scheduled for late April. There will be a meeting for anyone interested in helping with this event, or just finding out more, on Monday, February 13 at 7:00 pm at the church.



## Planning Meeting for the Fall Craft Fair



In order to get the planning underway for the 2012 Fall Craft Fair, Dana Tarr is in the process of scheduling a preliminary meeting for anyone who would be interested in helping with this year's fair (usually held the first weekend in November). At press time, it looked as if the meeting would be after worship at about noon on Sunday, February 26. For more information, please contact Dana: 413-548-9315 or danaktarr@gmail.com.

## Adult Mentors and Helpers Needed

We are looking for some enthusiastic adults who can help with some Youth Group meetings (12:00-1:00 pm lunch meeting on Sundays, after worship) and special events! If you sign up, your name will be put on a list and we will contact you when additional adult help is needed. We would also like some volunteers to make lunch for the group after church occasionally. If you have any particular ideas for a type of meeting or event you would like to help with, please let us know. Thank you!

-- Leah Minks and Christine Kelley



Please fill out the following form and return to the church office or Sunday offering plate – you will be contacted when extra adult or lunch help is needed:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help with lunch: \_\_\_\_

I would like to help with a meeting or special event: \_\_\_\_

## Update on Small Group Studies

### Methodism 101 -- Begins this Thursday, February 2



Have you wondered what the United Methodist Church is all about? This Thursday, February 2 from 6:30-8 pm, we will begin another Methodism 101 class. It will run for three Thursdays until February 16. We will discuss the history, organization, and distinctive theological and ethical positions of the United Methodist Church. All are welcome, whether you are a long-time Methodist or a curious newcomer. If you are interested, please call Jim Harvey at 259-4404 or send email to: [jimharvey293@gmail.com](mailto:jimharvey293@gmail.com).

### New Bible Study – Parables & Stories of Jesus

One of the things Jesus was good at was telling stories. His stories are designed to make us think about important issues in our faith journey. They contain many of his central teachings in an interesting and easy to remember way. Starting on February 5th and continuing each Sunday in February and March, a Bible study group will meet from 6:30-8 pm to hear these ancient stories and discover what they mean today. Newcomers to Wesley and the Bible are welcome, as well as long-time Bible students. For more information, please contact Jim Harvey (413-259-4404 or [jimharvey293@gmail.com](mailto:jimharvey293@gmail.com)).



### Daytime Spiritual Journey Begins a Video Series on “Saving Jesus”



Beginning February 9, the daytime Spiritual Journey group will begin viewing and discussing a series of videos entitled “Saving Jesus,” in which a number of prominent Christian theologians and other specialists address distortions that have crept into contemporary American representations of Jesus and his teachings by both the political Left and Right, and describe “a credible Jesus for the 21st century.” The group meets on Thursdays from 12:30-2 pm at the church. All are welcome!!

### New Travel-Oriented Group Forming in February

Do you have fond memories of that favorite trip (Greece, Turkey, Iceland, Spain, China, or even Montana)? Just found your slides or digital images and would like to see them again, but haven't taken the time to do it? Why not share your photos and experiences with a new Wesley Relive-a-Vacation Small Group? Each session will feature one trip, with photos that can be shown in a variety of formats as needed. Don't worry if you don't like to talk in front of groups – you don't have to volunteer to go first, and no one is expecting a professional lecture. It's just fun to share travel photos and memories with friends who are there because they are interested in your experiences. Now that the snow has arrived, reliving vacations might be a good way to get to know each other better and to remind ourselves that winter won't last forever. The first meeting is planned for February 17, but whether or not that date works for you, please let Cathy Bennett know if you would be interested in participating in the group at some point (email: [cab55@earthlink.net](mailto:cab55@earthlink.net), phone 413-256-1502).

## Remembering in Joy and Concern



**Death:** Creo Harvey, longtime Wesley Church member and mother of Jim Harvey, died on January 19 at the age of 101. Her funeral was held at Wesley Church on January 23.

**Baptism:** Madelyn Elizabeth Roy, infant daughter of Rob & Emily Roy, was baptized at Wesley Church on January 22, with a great many members of her extended family in attendance!

**Life Challenges:** Angela Melone (niece of Toria York); Kathleen (niece of Gerry Harvey); Dan O'Donnell (nephew of Gerry Harvey); Jim Wyatt.

### **Health Concerns:** .

**--With Varying Stages of Health Issues:** *From Wesley Family:* Carol White; Joan Hansen; John Muerle; Mary Devanandan; Vlasta Greenbie; Ruth Harms; Cathy McGeoch.

*From Wesley Family Extensions:* Brenda Roy (mother of Rob Roy); Shelley Bail (friend of Ted & Kathy Blaisdell); Roy Swart (nephew of Carol Gonyea); Sharon Eddy (niece of Carol Gonyea); Arlene Mitzkovitz (mother of Robin McGuffey); Ruth Catt (mother of Jennifer Catt-Morse); Don Catt (grandfather of Jennifer Catt); John Sepavich (brother of Dave Sepavich); Maureen Ericson (cousin of Doris Newton); Karen Gemmill (sister of Gerry Harvey); Terri Cathryn (sister of Gerry Harvey); Comfort Asiedu (mother of Richmond Ampiah-Bonney).

### **--In Their Struggles with Cancer:**

*From Wesley Family extensions:* Bill Hopper (father of Emily Roy); Ray Aldrich (friend of Denise Whitney); Patricia Lamberson (sister of Kathy Bame); Martha Gurski (mother of Mary Martinez); Christina Ryan (sister-in-law of Robert Ryan); Amelie Etienne (mother of Diane Mercomes' daughter-in-law); Robert Silverman (brother of Doris Newton).

### **Remembering Our Saints in Glory:**

In February, we will be remembering these former members on the anniversaries of their death and resurrection into new life:

Althea Griffin -- February 3, 1977  
Stephen Thompson -- February 4, 1998  
Blanche Hawley -- February 6, 1976  
James Anderson -- February 8, 1997  
Mildred Ames White -- February 9, 1957  
Denise Lacey -- February 10, 2000  
Caroline Olson -- February 10, 2008  
M. Adella King Thompson -- Feb 11, 1956  
Earl Cleveland -- February 13, 1994

Florence Alley -- February 17, 1995  
Esther Scott -- February 19, 1965  
Barbara Snape -- February 19, 2007  
Thena Thompson Ansaldo -- Feb 23, 1977  
Owen Graves -- February 25, 1965  
Carra Ruth Hendrick Lindsey -- Feb 26, 1999  
Joseph Cembalisty -- February, 1994  
Virginia Fishel -- February, 1995

### **Remembering Those Serving in the Military:**

We continue our prayers for those serving in the military, particularly those in Iraq & Afghanistan. Those with a Wesley Church connection include: Scott Lamberson, Brandon Black and Adam Black (nephews of Kathy Bame). Our prayers also extend to non-combatant victims of war, to the political leaders seeking to bring an end to the warfare, and to the families of the military personnel.

### **Our World:**

For the people of Japan, and Haiti; for those who suffer from famine in Somalia and the Horn of Africa; resolution to the political struggles in Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Bahrain, Yemen, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Algeria, and Syria.

**See Online Calendar for  
February**

# Community Events

## ***Events Being Held Weekly at the Church...***

Tai Chi Class Wednesday evenings: A new Tai Chi Class for absolute beginners is meeting at Wesley Church on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm in the large Sunday School Room. The class is being offered free of charge for the first six weeks (through February 15), to give people an opportunity to try it. For more information, contact the instructor, Jeff Sterling, via email: [amhersttaichi@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttaichi@gmail.com).



Exercise Class: Every Tuesday and Thursday from 10-11 am, the Great Hall is animated by music and physical activity, as experienced exercise instructor Nicole Bennett leads an exercise class which includes stretching, aerobic activity, and a soothing cool-down time. This class is mostly attended by people over 40 and is not hugely demanding, so if you are looking for a way to begin exercising gently and wisely, this class could be a good choice for you. For more information about the class, call Nicole at 413-230-3319, or speak to Louise Minks, who is a frequent participant.

New 12-step Meeting: Wesley is the site of a weekly meeting of the group Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous, Fridays from 10-11:30 am in the Meeting Room. The meeting is open to all, so if you think it may meet your needs, feel free to attend a meeting to find out more.

## ***Upcoming Concerts at the Church...***

Saturday, February 4 at 7:30 pm: Cantabile plays "Name That Tune": Music on the program is a combination of sacred and secular, combining mass movements and the secular tunes they were based upon. Composers include Josquin, Ockeghem, Isaac, Palestrina and many other masters of the Renaissance. For more information, visit their website: [people.umass.edu/shea/cantabile.html](http://people.umass.edu/shea/cantabile.html).

Friday, February 10 at 7:30 pm: Chamber Music Society at Wistariahurst: Aventuras Latinas: TANGO! The Society's fine musicians return to perform fresh pieces of music and one repeat masterpiece: Heitor Villa Lobos' Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5, a haunting and hum-able piece for soprano and eight cellos that is rarely heard in live performance--presumably because eight cellos aren't easy to round up. Astrid Schween, professor of cello at UMASS-Amherst and a nationally acclaimed cell soloist, will lead the piece with seven of her students, with the radiant soprano, Junko Watanabe, again as the soloist. The program will also feature Duo Fusiòn, the flute and guitar team of Sarah Swersey and Joe Belmont, in Pujol's dancing "Suite Buenos Aires."

## ***Elsewhere in the Community...***

### ***Truth, a new folk opera about the life of Sojourner Truth***

Premiere of the locally-produced opera *Truth* will be February 16, 17 and 18 at 7:30 pm at the Academy of Music Theatre in Northampton. Some Wesley members are involved in the production and it is not to be missed. For more information, look up the website [Truthopera.com](http://Truthopera.com).

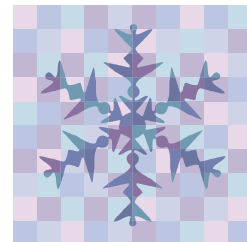
### **The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Service: A Multifaith Celebration Thursday, February 23rd, 7:00 p.m. Johnson Chapel at Amherst College**

This celebration will include music from local church choirs, the Amherst College Choral Society and the Amherst College Gospel Choir, a dramatic performance of selected Dr. King speeches and a keynote address from Rev. Otis Moss III, the Senior Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, Ill. A collection will be taken to support the Amherst Survival Center.

# Emergency Preparedness Planning at Wesley

## Weather Cancellation Communication

If Sunday worship at Wesley Church ever needs to be cancelled because of adverse weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on NBC Channel 22 and CBS Channel 3. Sunday worship will also be cancelled automatically in the event of a state of emergency declaration by the towns of Amherst and/or Hadley (as happened during the storm on October 29).



## Register for March 10 Training with UMCOR

Because of the large number of recent weather emergencies, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) hopes to train more people in our area to serve on Early Response Teams that would be able to go into a local community immediately after a damaging storm to begin helping people who are stranded by flooding, debris, or disturbances to the power grid. There will be a training at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield on Saturday, March 10 from 8:30 am - 5 pm. Consider whether you are able to attend this training, for the sake of really being equipped to do something to help, the next time emergency help is needed. There is a registration fee of \$25 for the training, to cover a manual and team T-shirt. To register or for more information, call Dave Stackpole at 603-465-7885, or email: [vimm-cumc@charter.net](mailto:vimm-cumc@charter.net).

## Wesley Emergency Support Network and Well-Being Checks

When an emergency such as the October 29 snowstorm strikes our area, Wesley Church members are concerned about one another's well-being and feel moved to share the resources they have with one another. During the recent snowstorm, Wesley Church people helped each other with well-being checks, hot meals and showers, and even the use of each other's chain-saws and generators. These informal, spontaneous instances of sharing were a blessing to all involved, and some people in the church would like to plan ahead to share resources more effectively during any future emergencies that might arise. Plans are still coming together, but clearly one step will be to organize all the interested members of our church community into small groups who can check on one another and share resources. If you would like to be included in a group like that, please send a note to the church office (by email or regular mail) including: your name, your address, your email address if you have one, and your landline and cell phone numbers, along with the names of the company that provides your phone and cell service. If desired, you can also add a short list of resources that you have to share with others (pickup truck or 4-wheel drive vehicle, generator, extra supplies of food, water, or wood for heat, etc). If you are homebound and would need help in case of an evacuation, or if you would like a well-being check from someone in the church or from local police or fire personnel during an emergency such as an extended power outage, please indicate that as well. Thanks in advance to all who choose to join this effort!



**Wesley United  
Methodist Church**

98 North Maple Street  
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**Memorial Service for Mary Wyatt  
February 25, 2:00 pm**



Longtime Wesley Church member and active community organizer Mary Wyatt died just before Thanksgiving, and many people who cared deeply about her were unable to come to her funeral. In order to respond to the widespread desire to celebrate Mary's life and her many contributions to our community, a memorial service will be held at Wesley Church on Saturday, February 25 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm, with a reception following.

Please put this event on your calendar, and make an effort to spread the word to others you know outside the church who might want to be included.